

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6065

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET INDICTMENT OF CHINESE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS

REF: MOSCOW 10114

1. WITH BITTER SARCASM, TODAY'S PRAVDA COMMENTARY BY M. GEORGIEV CARRIES THE LATEST SOVIET DENUNCIATION OF SO-CALLED PRC TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AGAINST ITS SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS (REF). THE ARTICLE FOCUSES ON CHINESE CLAIMS TO THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS (WHERE PEKING "DOES NOT ADMIT EVEN A THOUGHT ABOUT THOSE, BESIDES CHINA, WHO HAVE LEGAL RIGHTS TO ISLAND TERRITORY IN THE REGION") AS WELL AS CLAIMS ON THE BORDERS OF THEIR SOUTHERN NEIGHBORS (WHERE PEKING IS RESPONSIBLE FOR "PROVOCATIONS AGAINST NEIGHBOR STATES").

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2. GEORGIEV CITES ONLY THE CLAIMS IN THE VICINITY OF

VIETNAM BY NAME AND IMPLIES GREATER SOVIET CONCERN WITH PEKING'S PRETENSIONS TOWARD THE ISLAND TERRITORIES. TO WIT, HE STRESSES THE "STRATEGIC" IMPORTANCE OF THESE ISLANDS WHICH ARE IN THE "PATH, LEADING FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN TO THE PACIFIC." A PATH, GEORGIEV ADDS, THE "MAOISTS WANT TO GET THEIR HANDS ON IN ORDER TO DICTATE CONDITIONS TO THE COUNTRIES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA."

3. DESCRIBING CHINESE CLAIMS ON THE BORDERS OF THEIR NEIGHBORS, PRAVDA REFERS TO THE INVASIONS OF MILITARY DETACHMENTS AS WELL AS THE SUSPICIOUS MIGRATION OF LARGE GROUPS THAT "SEIZE LAND" AND "UNCEREMONIOUSLY TRANSFER FRONTIER SIGNS DEEPER INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES." GEORGIEV ASCRIBES THIS TO A CHINESE EFFORT TO "INTIMIDATE" THESE COUNTRIES AND TO "FORCE ON THEM CHINESE TERRITORIAL CLAIMS."

4. COMMENT. THE SOVIETS SEEM TO HAVE REACHED A PLATEAU IN THEIR MOVE TO SUPPORT ALL ASIAN STATES, BUT PARTICULARLY VIETNAM, THAT HAVE TERRITORIAL DISPUTES WITH PEKING; THAT IS, STRESSING THAT THESE TERRITORIES DO NOT BELONG TO THE PRC WITHOUT SPECIFICALLY SUPPORTING THE CLAIMS OF THE VARIOUS ASIAN STATES. THE TIMING OF THE FALL OF THE OTHER SHOE MAY WELL DEPEND ON CHINESE PROPAGANDA REGARDING THE NORTHERN TERRITORIES.
STOESSEL

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